



## **Livestock & Meat Advisory Council**

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### **Industry Update for week ending 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

#### **OVERVIEW**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Government gazetted the Agricultural Marketing Authority (Livestock Development Levy) Statutory Instrument (SI) 129 of 2017 which requires that:

- All registered cattle abattoirs be charged \$10 per animal;
- All registered milk processors be charged 1 cent per litre; and
- All registered chick producers be charged 1 cent per chick.

According to the SI, these levies will go into a fund for disease control and livestock development activities.

Stakeholders in the livestock value chains are surprised by the announcement of the new SI levying the livestock sector at a time when the signals and stated intention from Government is to work towards reducing the regulatory costs of doing business by at least 50% to assist towards local industry's competitiveness.

A number of issues are highlighted that are of concern to the industry from this recent policy including the following:

- How much consultation was done with stakeholders before the SI was gazetted?
- Some items of material importance in the SI itself are not quite clear and that is where consultation would have been helpful;
- The quantum of the levies in relation to ease of doing business; and
- Benefits of the levy in relationship to ongoing livestock development thrusts in which industry stakeholders are already participating in.

LMAC has met with farmers unions and other stakeholders in the dairy industry and allied Associations to discuss the effects of the statutory instrument and are preparing a position paper for submission to the relevant authorities for engagement purposes.

#### **Zimbabwe Poultry Association**

The establishment of a global body on Avian Influenza (AI) comes at a time when Zimbabwe and South Africa are working to achieve AI-free status again. The International Egg Commission has set up the

Avian Influenza Global Expert Group (AIGEG), comprised of leading scientists, veterinary surgeons and industry experts “to help the egg industry move beyond the risk of AI.”

The findings of the AIGEG confirm that biosecurity is the single most important factor in protecting poultry production against AI and other diseases. Members of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association (ZPA) practice biosecurity, and the successful containment of the AI outbreak to the farm where it occurred, has been attributed to the tight biosecurity practised on the farm, coupled with swift and rigorous follow-up measures under the direction of the Department of Veterinary Services.

The Avian Influenza Global Expert Group has produced a comprehensive Practical Biosecurity Check List, with a set of educational materials accessible on line to the egg industry. This incorporates critical guidelines on how to prevent poultry having contact with rodents and wild birds, controlling movement of vehicles and people, and consistent use of dedicated protective clothing and footwear for anyone who has access to chickens. More information on this check list can be obtained through ZPA.

Questions on AI should be directed to the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS), the competent authority on animal disease in Zimbabwe. DVS issues reports on the status of AI in Zimbabwe in line with global veterinary protocols. As a member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Zimbabwe is working through OIE to achieve AI free status again.

As the next step in ‘helping the egg industry move beyond the risk of AI’, the AIGEG is currently preparing a paper on AI vaccination, for global release. This will evaluate the advantages and constraints of AI vaccination programmes.

Zimbabwe joined many other countries in observing World Egg Day on 13<sup>th</sup> October. ZPA marked the event under the theme “The Value of the Egg”, to highlight the significance of egg production to Zimbabwe, for food security and economic growth.

ZPA was invited to participate in World Egg Day supplements run by two national newspapers. This was an opportunity to highlight how production of eggs, which retail at around 25 cents each, is generating millions of dollars annually across the Zimbabwean economy and is sustaining livelihoods along the value chain. It was also an avenue to reassure consumers that the poultry industry is building up egg production capacity again after the outbreak of AI to retain all the upstream and downstream benefits of egg self-sufficiency within the national economy.

### **Schedule of forthcoming meetings and events: October and November**

<b><i>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October</i></b>	Meeting of the Meat Processors Association of Zimbabwe
<b><i>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November</i></b>	Open Meeting of the Pig Producers Association of Zimbabwe
<b><i>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</i></b>	Annual General Meeting and Council meeting of the Meat Processors Association of Zimbabwe
<b><i>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November</i></b>	Council meeting of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association
<b><i>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November</i></b>	Dialogue Forum of the Livestock and Meat Advisory Council
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Agricultural Marketing Authority Bulletin number 42 of 2017